

By the Queene.



An Exemplification of her Maiesties Letters Patent, concerning her Highnesse Towne and Port of Hasting, in the Countie of Suffex.



Lizabeth, by the grace of God, Queene of Englande, Fraunce & Ireland, Defender of the fayth &c. To all people to whom these our letters patent shall come, greeting. Where of our owne knowledge & certeine science we do vnderstand, that our Towne and Port of Hasting, in our Countie of Suffex, being an ancient Towne of our Cinque Portes, is scituated vpon the maine Sea, verie neere the middelt of a great Bay or open place, lying betweene two points of the land, which stretch forth farre into the Sea, called the Beachy and the Rasle, distant eache from the other thirtie miles, right opposite to the Realme of Fraunce, the ancient enemy of our Countrey: as we are credibly enfourmed, the same Towne hath of long time bene a place not onely very well inhabited with warlike people, and greatly replenished with good Mariners & other men meete and seruiceable for our Flaue, well stored with Shippes, Barkes, Crayers, and Boates, but also sufficiently furnished with Armour, and Artillery of all sortes, both for Sea and Land: also very meete and commodious for fishing, and the Bay plenteously abounding with all sortes of fish, according to the seuerall seasons of the yeere: by reason whereof the same Towne hath of long time bene by the inhabitants thereof, in time of warres, manfully defended against the sundry inuasions and attempts of the French Nation, our coast thereabouts lying very open against the French, by them often kept from spoyle. Our Marchants and louing subiects, and other traouellers sayling along that coast, haue oftentimes by their Shippes, and oftentimes by their harborough, bene saued & rescued from the furie of the enemies, and the tyrannie of Pirates: our Flaue, and the Flaue of sundry our noble Progenitors, Kings of this Realme, the better appointed by reason of their skilfull Mariners, and cunning Seamen: Also our household, our Citizens of London, and our Countreies to the said Port adioyning, greatly benefited by their fishing. And where our said Towne hath of long time had a Peere or Harborough made of Timber, and other things set and placed in the Sea, for the succour of the Seamen, & defence of their Shippes, Barkes, Crayers and Boates, against the great rage and furie of the Sea, which hath bin alwayes mainteined at the great and importable charges of the inhabitantes of our said Towne of Hasting, vntil of late time the same Peere or Harborough was at a sudden, by the great violence & extreme rage of the Sea, broken downe and caried away: sithence which time the towne is much decayed, the traffique of Marchants thither forsaken, the fishing, by reason of the dangerous landing, litle vsed, the riche & wealthy men gone thence, & the poore men yet remaining would gladly do the like, if without offence of our lawes they might be elsewhere receiued: whereby our people are likely to perishe, and our said Port likely to be subuerted and become desolate, or els the people there by necessitie driuen to commit great and heynous offences, to the great hindrance of the publique weale, vnlesse some speedie remedie be for the provided. And where we be enformed by diuers of our priuie Counsell and Nobilitie, and by diuers Artificers very cunning and skilfull in that kinde of facultie, that a very good Haueu or Rhoad, for the arriuing and sauegard of Shippes, Barkes, Crayers and Boates, may nere vnto the said Port with no great charge be made, to the great reliefe of the inhabitantes, and of all Marchants and traouellers sayling along the narrowe Seas, & to the strength of our said Coast: and that the inhabitantes of our said Port be ready and willing to bestowe their landes,

goods, and labours, to the uttermost of their power, to accomplish the same: notwithstanding of themselves very unable to finish so great a worke, likely as it is thought to amount unto the summe of foure thousand poundes. We therefore considering the premises, and minding to provide for the preservation of our people, the maintenance of our Navy and Towne, for the defence of our Coast, and of Merchants & travellers, and that the provision of our householde, our Citie and Countrey be not diminished, at the humble sute of our Bailife, Jurates, & Comminaltie of our said Towne of Hasting, do by these our letters Patents not onely give and graunt unto our said Bailife, Jurates, and Comminaltie, full power & authoritie, to make newe, and finish one Haven, in such place or places nere unto our said Towne and Port, as to them shall seeme most convenient, and to the finishing and accomplishing thereof, yeeld our Royall assent and consent: but also for the furtherance and better helping forth of the same, we do commend the same good and laudable intent and purpose, to the charitable and liberall contribution and beneuolence of all and singuler our loving subiects dwelling within any our Realmes & Dominions, that the rather for our recommendation, the more liberall contribution by our saide Subiects may be yeelded to the finishing of the saide Haven, a worke tending much to the defence of our Realmes, and to the profite of the common wealth of the same, & which wilbe cause to auoide many great inconueniences that may insue by the neglecting thereof: and also be an euident declaration of the forward and willing mindes of all our loving subiects, to augment the prosperitie of our Realmes and Countreys. We of our speciall grace, certaine knowledge, & meere motion, haue giuen and graunted, and by these our letters Patent, do giue and graunt full licence, permission, and authoritie to our faithfull and welbeloued subiects, Richard Calueley, and John Jefferey, Jurates of our said Towne of Hasting, and William Kelfe of Oze Gentleman, and to euery of them, and to all and euery other person or persons that shalbe thereunto deputed and assigned by them, or by any two of them, by working vnder the common seale of our said Towne of Hasting, to aske, receiue, collect, and take of all maner of persons whatsoeuer, Spirituall or Temporal, English borne or Straungers, in all places, as wel within liberties as without, exempt or not exempt, our citizes of Londo or els where, within any our Realmes, Cities and Dominions wheresoeuer, Christian contribution and beneuolence of all our said loving subiects, that it may or shall please God to mooue or stirre them to giue, contribute, yeelde & pay towards the newe making of the said Haven. And for the better & more speedie execution of this our pleasure, we do by these our said letters Patent, will, require, and straightly commaund all our Sherifes in their seuerall Shetres and Counties, all our Iustices of peace in their seuerall limittes, and all Maiors, Baylifes, and all other head Officers, within all Cities, Townes corporate, and other Iurisdiccions, & also all Parsons, Vicars, Ministers, and Curates of Churches and Parishes, not onely of their owne parts to be helping with their liberall deuotion toward the said good and laudable worke, but also to recomende our speciall pleasure, & the furtherance of the said Haven in their seuerall Counties, Limittes, Cities, Townes, Liberties, Parishes, Churches, Hamlets, or Villages, for the better obtaining of liberal contribution thereunto. And further our will & pleasure is, that some of the honourable of our priue Counsel shall vpon the sight of these presents, or the Exemplificatiō of the same, at the request of the said Richard Calueley, John Jefferey, and William Kelfe, or of any of them, direct their letters to the Lord Maior of our Citie of London, & to the Iustices of peace of the same Citie, to all Sherifes in euery our Shetres or Counties within our Realme and Dominions, and to all Maiors, Bailifes, Gouvernors, & head Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Townes corporate, Hamlets, and franchised places, commanding the said Lord Maior, the Iustices, the said Sherifes, Bailifes, Gouvernors, and head officers aforesaid, that they and euery of them, within their seuerall Limittes, Iurisdiccions, and Liberties, at the quarter Sessions, or generall assemblie within their seuerall limittes, Iurisdiccions or Liberties, which shalbe next after the receipt of the said letters, or of these presents, or the Exemplification of the same, shall direct the tenor of this our pleasure to all and singuler Iustices of peace within their seuerall limittes, iurisdiccions or liberties, requiring, and straightly commaunding them and euery of them in our name, to appoint with all conuenient speede within their seuerall limittes, one Constable in euery hundred, rape, lathe, or wapentake at the least, and one Churchwarden in euery Parish, & them to command and exhort, not only to be liberall them selues in their contribution, but also that the said Constables and Churchwardens shal write the name of euery Parish, and of euery man of habilitie within the same, and of them to aske & receiue their deuocion, and earnestly in our name to exhort them to liberalitie, in contributing to the making of the said Haven, and truely to write downe the summe which euery man shall giue, and the money which they shall thereby collect and receiue, and the names of euery giuer, and the true summe which euery one shal giue, & also the names of all such as shall not giue, or shall refuse to contribute, in writing shal within one moneth next after they shall haue notice of this our pleasure, deliuer by vnto

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such our Justices of peace of whom they receiued their charge, if he shall then be liuing, otherwaie to such of our Justices as shalbe next dwelling thereabouts. And that our further pleasure is, that our saide Justices of peace shall by their warraunt call before them, all and singuler such persons as shall refuse to giue or contribute liberally towardes this good worke, and vnderstande the cause of their refusall, and vnto them declare our pleasure, exhorting and perswading them to conformitie, which if they shall notwithstanding, obstinately refuse, then to certifie their names & dwelling places to vs, or to our priuy Counsell. And that our said Justices of peace and euery of them, shall at the Sessions or generall assemble, holden next within their said seuerall Shires, Limites, Jurisdictions or Liberties, deliuer and yeelde vp vnto the said Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouvernours, or head Officers, by bill indented, vnto which their handes or markes shalbe set, whereof the one part shall remaine with the said Justices, the other with the said Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, and other head Officers, all such summes of money as they shall haue receiued as aforesaide, together with the same writings made of the names and of the money giuers: and the said Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouvernours & head Officers, & euery of them shall within one moneth next after the receipt thereof, transport and carrie, or cause to be carried vnto our said Citie of London, all such summes of money as they shal haue receiued towards the same contribution, together with the said billes indented, and the same money there shal pay, and the said billes indented there deliuer to our louing Subiects, Thomas Smith Esquier, one of the Customers of our Citie of London, John Heynes Esquier, Serieant of our Catry, and William Heynes Gentleman, Purueior of our prouision of Sea fish, or to one of them at the new Mansion house of the said Thomas Smith, within our said Citie of London, who vpon the receipt thereof shall giue vnto the saide Lord Maior, Sherifes, Maiors, Bailifes, Gouvernours, & other head Officers from time to time, an acquittance of the receipt therof, and shall keepe the same money & billes indented in one Chesse, to remaine with the saide Thomas Smith vnder thre seuerall lockes, whereof one key to remaine with the saide Thomas Smith, another with the saide John Heynes, & the third with the saide William Heynes, & that they from time to time, vpon demand thereof to be made at the newe Mansion house of the said Thomas Smith, within our saide Citie of London, shal yeeld and pay ouer the same money, & deliuer the said billes indented so by them receiued, & euery part thereof vnto our welbeloued, the right honorable Anthony Viscount Montague, Knight of the most honorable order of the Garter, William Lord Cobham, Warden of our Cinque Portes, and Constable of our Castle of Douer, Thomas Lord Buckhurst, the said Richard Calueley, John Jeffercy, and William Kelse, or to any thre of them, whereof some one of the right honorable aforesaid or his sufficient deputie to be one: which said right honorable Anthony Viscount Montague, William Lord Cobham, Thomas Lord Buckhurst, and the said Richard Calueley, John Jeffercy, and William Kelse, we do ordeine, appoint and constitute, Surueyors of the said worke, giuing them, & to any thre of them, whereof some one of the saide honorable, or his sufficient deputie to be one, full power and authoritie to set out, direct, gouerne, order, and rule the saide worke, and the workemen about the same, and the saide workemen and laborers to pay, or cause to be paid: and of their proceedings and successe in the said worke, to certifie vs or our priue Counsell vnder their handes and seales euery halfe yere: So that expresse mention of the certaintie of the premises, or of any other gift or graunt heretofore made by vs, or by any of our progenitors to the saide Richard Calueley, John Jeffercy, and William Kelse, and in these presentes be not rehearsed or declared, or any act, statute, ordinance, prouision, or restraint to the contrary hereof, had, made, ordeined or prouided, or any other cause or matter whatsoever to the contrary in any wise, notwithstanding.

In witnesse whereof we haue caused these our letters to be made Patent: Witnesse our selfe at Cheynis, the one and thirtieth day of October, in the twentieth yere of our raigne, 1578.

God saue the Queene.



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